



60 SUMMITS: Montana  
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*Propagating the New Work Disability Prevention Paradigm for Disability Benefits & Workers' Comp Systems Across North America*

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## **60 Summits: Montana Sponsor Opportunities**

As you know, Workers' Compensation is a growing issue in Montana; we have the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rates in the country and despite low statutory benefit levels, provide amongst the highest average benefits in the country. But we keep our injured workers away from the job 48% longer than the national average, which does not help them to heal, takes away from our already inadequate employee base, and ends up costing us all.

**The Labor Management Advisory Council**, made up of representatives solely from private-sector labor organizations and businesses, asked the Department of Labor and Industry to spearhead an effort to create a **60 Summits** project for Montana. The **60 Summits: Montana** effort formally starts on April 20 in Billings, April 22 in Great Falls, and April 24 in Missoula. This is a state-by-state grass-roots effort to refocus participants in the workers' compensation system on what is most important - the idea that returning people to as full a health as possible, as quickly as medically appropriate is what the workers' compensation system should be about. The goal is to change the workers' compensation system in Montana to one where getting well and living life is of primary importance.

Instead of making legislative or regulatory changes, the **60 Summits: Montana** effort focuses on the role of injured workers, employers and medical providers to make change at the individual level in our treatment of injuries, stay at work, and return to work efforts. When we all start working towards improving the outcomes of people who are injured at work, we start making a difference and the results of our workers' compensation system will improve.

We are looking for **all** levels of support, and each sponsor will receive special recognition at each of the 3 workshops in Montana. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the 60 Summits: Montana workshops, and the role you might be able to play in supporting our efforts.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

*Peter Strauss*

Vice President, Operations Support  
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on behalf of the Labor Management Advisory Council  
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